



Revelations

of First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 19419 Royalton Road – Strongsville Ohio 44149
440.238.7890 – www.firstchurchalive.org

January

2018

Dear Friends:

As a way of introducing his iconic song *Thunder Road*, Bruce Springsteen describes a time in his very young life when he was completely broke, estranged from his parents, his sisters had started their own lives, and he was pretty much alone. But as he lay looking up at the stars on a hot summer night in Freehold, New Jersey he was happy because he realized that many blank pages of his life were yet to be written. He now laments - sort of anyway - that at age 69 there aren't as many pages left to fill. (But he's still pretty happy.)

While Bruce has a few years on me his words nonetheless ring true. Unless God has blessed me with supernatural DNA I have fewer pages to fill than have already been written upon. And that is cause to stop and ponder. Is the part of the book that has already been authored representative of a life well lived, one lived to the glory of God? And what will I do with the pages that are left? Certainly time will pass more quickly at this end of the spectrum.

I often think of the closing scene of *Saving Private Ryan* where Ryan is standing at the grave of Captain John Miller, who sacrificed his life for Ryan. Wanting assurance that Ryan has been worthy of Miller's sacrifice he says to his wife, "Tell me I'm a good man." He wants to know if his pages have been filled with honorable deeds, that he's been a decent husband and father.

Maybe this provides a helpful backdrop as we enter a new year. Some of us make the transition where Bruce was on that clear summer night in Freehold, full of hope and energy and grand ideas, ready to fill up the seemingly countless pages that lay open with a zest for life that can barely be harnessed. Others will move more slowly, arm in arm with James Ryan, acknowledging the uncomfortable reality that the clock seems to be ticking a bit faster and time is of the essence.

Either way, we travel together, united by our faith in Jesus Christ who is the source of our hope and strength throughout this earthly life. I offer this prayer as a tool to use as we step into 2019 as God's beloved people:

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever - the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (ELW, copyright 2006)

Traveling with you,

Pastor Chuck

Worship Notes for



**** We begin using ELW Setting 10 at the traditional service this month. While we have never used it, worshipers will have no trouble learning it as each liturgical component is set to a familiar hymn tune.**

No Pub Church in January since it would fall on New Year's Day.

Epiphany Day

Sunday, January 6	8:30 AM	Contemporary Service, Eucharist
	11:00 AM	ELW Setting 10, Eucharist

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 13	8:30 AM	Contemporary Service
	11:00 AM	ELW Setting 10

Epiphany 2

Sunday, January 20	8:30 AM	Contemporary Service, Eucharist
	11:00 AM	ELW Setting 10, Eucharist

Epiphany 3

Sunday, January 27	8:30 AM	Contemporary Service
	11:00 AM	ELW Setting 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

A BIG THANK YOU



Thank you to the many congregation members who donated an abundance of nonperishable food items, monetary gifts, and their time during the busy holiday season. It is with great pride to maintain the long-standing tradition at First Lutheran Church of helping those in need.

YOGA AT FIRST CHURCH!

Beginning on **Thursday, January 3 at 7:30 PM**, Cyndi Milluzzi returns to lead a six week yoga class for any person over the age of 16. Cost is \$5 a class. Contact Bonnie Eggers to register at pmozbach@gmail.com. Guests are welcome to visit any session for \$5.

A NEW ADULT CLASS BEGINS JANUARY 6

Short Stories by Jesus, the Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi will explore six thought-provoking parables of Jesus. New Testament and Jewish scholar Amy-Jill Levine will take us back in time to understand how the original Jewish audience heard the stories. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, and shows how they still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

HELP IS NEEDED



Please help us take down Christmas decorations on **Sunday, January 6** immediately **following the 11:00 service**. Sign-ups are at the **Welcome Center**. Many hands will make light work!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

The first class will begin **Saturday, January 12, 10:00 AM**. Please call the church office at 440-238-7890 to register, or speak to one of the pastors for more information. Classes are open to students in grade 5 and above.





KIDS HOPE USA

January is all about setting goals, making resolutions, and planning for the new year. All of these things help us to grow and to stay focused. However, it is also good when the things that are working get tweaked but generally stay the same. One of those things is the faithful commitment of our KIDS HOPE USA mentors and prayer partners. These volunteers bring weekly joy to the students they mentor and for whom they pray. Their positive impact is impossible to measure.

January is National Mentoring Month and provides an opportunity for us to say a huge “thank you” to these wonderful people. Mentors and prayer partners will be honored at a luncheon later in the month, and their names will be listed in a bulletin insert. Please be sure to offer a word of thanks to them for all that they do to make positive differences in the lives of children.

Our KIDS HOPE USA program would not be successful without the ongoing support of the Church Council and members of this congregation. We are celebrating our TENTH year of mentoring, so it is also appropriate to thank the congregation for supporting KIDS HOPE USA for all of this time. Watch the church bulletin for information and details concerning this event.

All of us involved with KIDS HOPE wish you and yours a very HAPPY 2019 and pray that the new year brings you only the best.

For the kids,

Gloria Reichert
Director
Kids HOPE USA

WOW EVENTS

SuperBowl Sunday Bake Sale

Women of WELCA will be hosting a bake sale on **Sunday, February 3** to raise funds for women's ministry at First Church.

Calling all Bakers! If you are able to provide baked goods for this event, please indicate what you will bring on our sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table. Or you can communicate directly with Bonnie Eggers. Baked goods may be delivered to First Church by Saturday, February 2 at 11:00 AM. If you are unable to transport the baked goods, arrangements may be made for a board member to pick up baked goods by calling Bonnie.

Thank Offering Sunday

On **February 10, 2019**, First Church will host a Thank Offering Service to collect money for the Women of the ELCA. Funds raised support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization, including the triennial conventions, the work of your elected churchwide board, the annual conference of synodical presidents, our communications ministries, justice and advocacy work, and more.

Book Club

We have a great list of books to read in 2019 selected by those who have attended. Please come and join us at the Strongsville Giant Eagle Market District at 9 am on the following Saturday mornings. Sign-ups are posted at the Welcome Center.

- January 26: *"Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom*
- February 16: *"Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult*
- March 16: *"Educated" by Tara Westover*
- April 13: *"The Chilbury Ladies Choir" by Jennifer Ryan*
- May 18: *"Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood*

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

		January 6 Communion	January 13	January 20 Communion	January 27
Acolytes Ellen Kolman	10:30/11:00	Abby McKee Skylar Horn	Jadyn Crane	Dylan Bresnahan Tori Kakos	Caroline Haggett
Ushers Maureen Shorts	8:30	Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Linda Browning Alli Thellman	Alice Treiber Mary Barnes Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship	Hank Pekkola Gayle Pekkola Herb Simpson Pam Simpson	Ron Shorts Maureen Shorts Dave Bewie Margaret Bewie
Dawn Evangelista	10:30/ 11:00	Bob Snyder Heather Snyder	Bob Jacob Brenda Jacob Dennis Beckman Jim Gist	Alan Evangelista Dawn Evangelista Eddie Forse Lori Forse	Jim Zakrajsek June Zakrajsek Reiner Mueller Rolf Gaab
Readers & CA	8:30	Jennifer Paine - RCA	Rae Alexander - R	Bruce Holderead – RCA	Josie McNamara - R
Barb Krueger Comm Assts:		Gayle Kovach Her b Simpson Pam Simpson Maureen Shorts		Jan Holderead Kurt Blankenship Joy Blankenship Jan Kappus	
	10:30/11:00 Comm Assts:	Sue Lindsey – R Jerry Krueger Barb Krueger Maryann Tower Holly Perzy	Audrey Kuntz – R	Marj Gray – RCA Greg Rath Sandy Rath Brenda Jacob	Debbie Jenkins - R
Nursery Bonnie Bailey	8:30/10:30	Jennifer Paine Kelly Worsencroft	Bonnie Bailey Barb Krueger	Bonnie Bailey Sandy Truedler	Jennifer Paine Kelly Worsencroft
Counting Teams Terri Mosley		Jim Gist Sherri Gist Gary Walters Mary Walters Dick Kiplinger	Reiner Mueller Al Hoffman Shelley Hoffman Pierre David	Gayle Kovach Rita Ross Chris Hamel Carol Paulini	Sam Reichert Rolf Gaab Jackie Wojciehowski John Brinzo
Altar Guild Beth David		Barb Krueger Lynn Stenger Shelley Hoffman Jacquie McLemore			

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 – Al-Anon	2	3 6:30 – Praise Band	4 10:00 - Prayer & Care	5
6 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 –Choir	7 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Confirmation 7:00 - AA	8 8:00 – KHUSA Leadership Team 6:00 – Crossroad Stickers 7:00 – Cabinet Meeting 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	9 6:30 – WOW Board	10 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	11	12 9:30 – Strongsville Food Bank 10:00 – First Communion Class
13 9:15 – Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir	14 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentor Groups 7:00 – AA	15 7:00 – Council Meeting 7:00 – Toastmast's 7:30 – Al-Anon	16 10:00 – Lydia Circle	17 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	18	19 10:00 – First Communion Class
20 9:15 - Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir	21 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed! 7:00 – AA	22 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	23	24 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball	25	26 9:00 – WOW Book Club 10:00 – First Communion Class
27 9:15 – Choir 9:45 – Sunday School 12:00 – Choir	28 7:00 – Bible Bonanza 7:00 – Mentors Meet 7:00 – AA	29 7:00 – Toastmaster's 7:30 – Al-Anon	30	31 6:30 – Praise Band 7:30 – Men's Basketball		

Pastor Charles Knerem
Pastorchuck1@gmail.com

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**Office hours: Monday & Friday 8-2,
 Tuesday – Thursday 9-2**
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